Business Plan
2016–2017

Department of Justice

NOVA SCOTIA

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Message from the Minister

It is my pleasure to present the Nova Scotia Department of Justice's Business Plan for 2016-2017. This year, we will continue to work toward making our communities safe and secure and ensuring that Nova Scotians remain confident in our justice system through the delivery of cost-effective, justice-related programs and services.

We will implement the recommendations of the Maintenance Enforcement Program Review Committee Report this year and have made it a priority to improve services and strengthen enforcement of support orders for families enrolled in the Program. As part of this effort, we are also making changes to the *Maintenance Enforcement Act* and conducting a consultation on a number of those changes.

With our partners, we will respond to the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Police and Prosecution Response to the Rehtaeh Parsons Case to address the serious issue of cyberbullying. We will do so in a way that better supports youth in crisis.

Our rehabilitation programming for both youth and adult offenders will be enhanced to assist their successful reintegration into the community. We will also continue to put a focus on crime prevention with the implementation of the unique Ceasefire Violence Interruption Model that aims to change violent behavior through community outreach.

To improve access to justice, the department will further enhance family law programs and services. This includes, for example, the continued expansion of assistive dispute resolution services and the continued expansion of family law informational online tools. The Restorative Justice Program has been in place for youth for 10 years and we intend to extend this service to adults this year following a pilot project.

I would like to thank the staff of the Department of Justice for their hard work and commitment to delivering important programs and services to Nova Scotians. Their effort, along with the department's valuable partnerships, contribute to making Nova Scotia a safe and secure place to live. I welcome your feedback on our plan for 2016-2017 and extend a sincere thank you to all who helped develop it and who will contribute to its implementation.

Diana Whalen

Diana Whalen
Minister, Department of Justice

Mandate

"The Department of Justice is responsible for the administration of justice and for promoting the safety and security of Nova Scotians through justice-related programs, services and initiatives."

The Department of Justice is a large department with approximately 1600 employees working across the province. To accomplish its mandate, the department provides services through four core business areas:

- Public Safety and Security
- Court Services
- Correctional Services, and
- Government Legal Services.

In 2016-17, the department will be working to fulfill its mandate through a variety of initiatives. In particular, the department will be:

- increasing compliance with maintenance orders through implementation of the Maintenance Enforcement Program Review Committee Report
- reviewing and responding to recommendations made in the Occupational Health and Safety Review of Sheriff Services
- addressing cyberbullying as part of Government's commitment to protect Nova Scotians, and
- working with partner agencies to assess and respond to recommendations in the Independent Review of the Police and Prosecution Response to the Rehtaeh Parsons Case.

Core Responsibilities/Services

The Department of Justice is responsible for administering all of the courts in the province and providing administrative support to the judiciary. It administers the Victim Services Program and the Sheriff Services Program. It enforces family maintenance orders (collects from debtors) through the Maintenance Enforcement Program and provides important family law services such as mediation, conciliation and parent education for families experiencing separation or divorce. The department provides the legislated oversight for policing, private security and gun control. It delivers programs focused on safer communities including Crime Prevention and the Public Safety Investigative Unit, and is responsible for the Restorative Justice program delivered through community justice agencies and the Mi'Kmaq Legal Support Network. The department operates Nova Scotia's correctional facilities for both youth and adults, administers custodial sentences and community supervision, and encourages offenders' participation in programs to facilitate their successful reintegration into the community. The Department of Justice is also responsible for the provision of legal advice to government and the conduct of litigation for or against the crown. Finally, the Minister of Justice is responsible for Nova Scotia's Office of the Public Trustee and the Medical Examiner Service.

The Department of Justice continues to consider ways to deliver its core services more efficiently and effectively.

Outcome to be Achieved

Improve community safety and wellbeing.

Goals

- Work with others to promote public safety and wellbeing through innovative initiatives.

Actions

1. Partner with other government departments and local health authorities to improve collaborative rehabilitative programming for youth.
2. Enhance rehabilitative programming for adult offenders.
3. Integrate custodial and community service delivery, with Community Corrections staff (Probation Officers) working more closely with adult correctional institutions to improve offender case management and ensure a more seamless transition of offenders from custody to community.
4. Assess and respond to the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Police and Prosecution Response to the Rehtaeh Parsons Case, working with partners.
5. Implement and test the Ceasefire Violence Interruption Model.
6. Expand the Restorative Justice Program to adults.

Inputs

All of the key actions listed under this Outcome will be funded by the Department of Justice within existing resources in 2016-17.

Performance Measures

Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	
Percentage of Nova Scotians who have some confidence in the justice system	Base year: 2005 74%	Maintain/increase public confidence in the justice system.	Year	% of public having some confidence in the justice system
			2005	74
			2006	76
			2007	70
			2008	72
			2009	76
			2010	74
			2011	75
			2012	74
			2013	76
			2014	72
			2015	84

<table>
<tr><th>Measure</th><th>Base Year Data</th><th>Target</th><th>Trends</th><th colspan="2">Measure</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">Number of core programs offered in custody and community by site</td><td rowspan="5">Base year:
2013-14

Adults: 21
Youth: 12</td><td rowspan="5">Maintain or increase number of core programs offered in custody and community by site</td><td>Year</td><td colspan="2"># of core programs offered</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">2013-14</td><td>Adults</td><td>21</td></tr>
<tr><td>Youth</td><td>12</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">2014-15</td><td>Adults</td><td>29</td></tr>
<tr><td>Youth</td><td>16</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">Number of participants in CeaseFire Violence Interruption Model to date</td><td rowspan="5">Base year:
2014-15

32</td><td rowspan="5">Meet the annual target for increasing the cumulative number of participants to date.</td><td>Year</td><td>Target</td><td># of participants to date</td></tr>
<tr><td>2014-15</td><td>30</td><td>32</td></tr>
<tr><td>2015-16</td><td>60</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>2016-17</td><td>90</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>2017-18</td><td>120</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Number of outreach education sessions provided by the CyberSCAN team</td><td>Base year:
2014-15

373</td><td>100 education sessions per year</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
</table>

Outcome to be Achieved

Improve access to justice.

Goals

- Facilitating informed decision-making by providing accurate and timely information and support.
- Enabling timeliness of service.

Actions

1. Improve Provincial Court case processing.
2. Enhance family law programs and services.
3. Implement the recommendations of the internal Maintenance Enforcement Program ("MEP") Review Committee Report and introduce legislative amendments to improve the *Maintenance Enforcement Act*.
4. Work with the judiciary, staff, and justice partners to implement business process improvements in Court Services.

Inputs

In 2016-17, the Department of Justice will focus on the recommendations of the MEP Review that have been identified as "short term". To implement the short term recommendations and to introduce amendments to the *Maintenance Enforcement Act*, the Department of Justice will work within existing resources. To implement the remaining recommendations of the MEP Review in the longer term, the Government of Nova Scotia will invest additional funding. All other actions listed under this Outcome will be funded by the Department of Justice within existing resources in 2016-17.

Performance Measures

Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	
Median case processing time in adult criminal court	Base year: 2010-11 141 days	TBD	Year	Median elapsed time in days
			2010-11	141
			2011-12	150
			2012-13	156
			2013-14	154
			2014-15	162
Median case processing time in youth court	Base year: 2010-11 101 days	TBD	Year	Median elapsed time in days
			2010-11	101
			2011-12	78
			2012-13	83
			2013-14	79
			2014-15	84
Case processing time in family law proceedings	Base year: TBD	TBD		
Number of MEP Review recommendations implemented	Base year: 2016-17	To implement all of the short term recommendations in 2016-17.		

Outcome to be Achieved

The public and the government receive cost-effective, consistent and effective services.

Goals

- Provide cost-effective, consistent and specialized legal advice and representation to government.
- Promote public safety and wellbeing through efficient and effective service delivery.

Actions

1. Review the recommendations from the 2015-16 review of Legal Services Division and implement, as feasible, to deliver legal services to government in a more innovative and efficient way.
2. Review and respond to the recommendations of the Sheriff Services' Occupational Health & Safety Report.
3. Review the Additional Officer Program to improve outcomes and find efficiencies.

Inputs

To review and implement the recommendations of the Legal Services Review, the Department of Justice will work within existing budgets. To review and respond to recommendations of the Sheriff Services' Occupational Health & Safety Report, the Government of Nova Scotia will invest additional money in 2016-17. To refocus the Additional Officer Program, the department will work within existing budgets.

Performance Measure

Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends
Percentage of Government Legal Services clients who are satisfied or very satisfied with the way legal services are delivered	Base year: TBD	To maintain/ increase the percentage of clients who are satisfied or very satisfied with the way legal services are delivered	

Departmental Expenses Summary

Departmental Expenses Summary
($ thousands)

Programs and Services	2015-2016 Estimate	2015-2016 Forecast	2016-2017 Estimate
Administration	22,394	21,135	20,658
Nova Scotia Legal Aid	24,340	24,340	24,340
Court Services	69,199	70,537	70,332
Correctional Services	69,443	69,443	69,617
Public Trustee	2,375	2,242	2,390
Nova Scotia Medical Examiner Service	4,057	4,419	4,057
Public Safety	135,172	134,864	138,381
Serious Incident Response Team	613	613	613
Total - Departmental Expenses	327,593	327,593	330,388
Ordinary Recoveries	112,440	112,974	115,643
Funded Staff (# of FTEs)			
Department Funded Staff	1,607	1,591	1,597

Note:
For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2
For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1